

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 13 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method for producing a substrate supporting table, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a dielectric film on a base; and

forming a plurality of protrusions of ceramic on said dielectric film by thermal-spraying the ceramic onto said dielectric film via an aperture plate having a plurality of apertures.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of forming at least one intermediate layer between said base and said dielectric film.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step of forming said protrusions is carried out with said aperture plate held in a position apart from said dielectric film.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said aperture plate is held in said position apart from said dielectric film by inserting a spacer member between said aperture plate and said dielectric film, said spacer member corresponding to the outside of peripheries of said apertures of said aperture plate.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A method for producing a substrate supporting table, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a first dielectric film on a base;
forming a conductive layer on said first dielectric film;
forming a second dielectric film on said conductive layer; and
forming a plurality of protrusions of ceramic on said second dielectric film by thermal-spraying the ceramic onto said second dielectric film via an aperture plate having a plurality of apertures.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 5, further comprising a step of forming at least one intermediate layer between said base and said first dielectric film.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said step of forming said protrusions is carried out with said aperture plate held in a position apart from said second dielectric film.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 7, wherein said aperture plate is held in said position apart from said second dielectric film by inserting a spacer member between said aperture plate and said second dielectric film, said spacer member corresponding to the outside of peripheries of said apertures of said aperture plate.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method as set forth in claim 5, further comprising a step of forming at least one coating layer on said second dielectric film before said step of forming said protrusions.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A substrate supporting table comprising:
a base;

a dielectric film formed on said base;
a plurality of protrusions of ceramic formed on said dielectric film by thermal-spraying, each of said protrusions having a top face consisting of a curved surface; and
a heat-transfer fluid passage being open in a surface of said dielectric film as a plurality of outlets,
wherein a stepped portion is provided on the surface of said dielectric film so as to extend along an outer peripheral portion of said substrate supporting table, said stepped portion having a height larger than that of said protrusions, and
a groove communicated with a region inside of said stepped portion is formed in a top face of said stepped portion, said outlets being arranged in said groove.

Claim 11 (original): A substrate supporting table as set forth in claim 10, wherein said base functions as an electrostatic electrode of an electrostatic chuck.

Claim 12 (original): A substrate supporting table as set forth in claim 10, wherein said protrusions have a height of 50 to 100 μm .

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A substrate supporting table comprising:

a base;
a first dielectric film formed on said base;
a conductive layer formed on said first dielectric film;
a second dielectric film formed on said conductive layer;

a plurality of protrusions of ceramic formed on said second dielectric film by thermal-spraying, each of said protrusions having a top face consisting of a curved surface; and

a heat-transfer fluid passage being open in a surface of said second dielectric film as a plurality of outlets,

wherein a stepped portion is provided on the surface of said second dielectric film so as to extend along an outer peripheral portion of said substrate supporting table, said stepped portion having a height larger than that of said protrusions, and

a groove communicated with a region inside of said stepped portion is formed in a top face of said stepped portion, said outlets being arranged in a side groove.

Claim 15 (original): A substrate supporting table as set forth in claim 14, wherein said conductive layer functions as an electrostatic electrode of an electrostatic chuck.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): A substrate supporting table as set forth in claim 14, wherein said protrusions have a height of 50 to 100 μm .

Claim 18 (currently amended): A processing system comprising:

a processing vessel for housing therein a substrate;

a substrate supporting table, provided in said processing vessel, for supporting thereon said substrate;

gas supply means for supplying a process gas into said processing vessel; and

exhaust means for exhausting gas from said processing vessel,

wherein said substrate supporting table has a base, a dielectric film formed on said base, a plurality of protrusions of ceramic formed on said dielectric film by thermal-spraying, each of said protrusions having a top face consisting of a curved surface, and a heat-transfer fluid passage being open in a surface of said dielectric film as a plurality of outlets,

a stepped portion is provided on the surface of said dielectric film so as to extend along an outer peripheral portion of said substrate supporting table, said stepped portion having a height larger than that of said protrusions, and

a groove communicated with a region inside of said stepped portion is formed in a top face of said stepped portion, said outlets being arranged in said groove.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A processing system comprising:

a processing vessel for housing therein a substrate;

a substrate supporting table, provided in said processing vessel, for supporting thereon said substrate;

gas supply means for supplying a process gas into said processing vessel; and

exhaust means for exhausting gas from said processing vessel,

wherein said substrate supporting table has a base, a first dielectric film formed on said base, a conductive layer formed on said first dielectric film, a second dielectric film formed on said conductive layer, a plurality of protrusions of ceramic formed on said second dielectric film by thermal-spraying, each of said protrusions having a top face consisting of a curved surface, and a heat-transfer fluid passage being open in a surface of said second dielectric film as a plurality of outlets,

a stepped portion is provided on the surface of said second dielectric film so as to extend along an outer peripheral portion of said substrate supporting a table, said stepped portion having a height larger than that of said protrusions, and

a groove communicated with a region inside of said stepped portion is formed in a top face of said stepped portion, said outlets being arranged in said groove.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A processing system comprising:

a processing vessel for housing therein a substrate;

a substrate supporting table, provided in said processing vessel, for supporting thereon said substrate;

gas supply means for supplying a process gas into said processing vessel; and

exhaust means for exhausting gas from said processing vessel,

wherein said substrate supporting table has a rectangular base, a plurality of protrusions of ceramic formed on said base by thermal-spraying, each of said protrusions having a top face consisting of a curved surface, and a heat-transfer fluid passage being open in a surface of said base as a plurality of outlets,

said protrusions are arranged so as to form an orthogonal lattice on said base, an angle between one axis of said orthogonal lattice and one side of said base being from more than 0° to not more than 45°,

a stepped portion is provided on the surface of said base so as to extend along an outer peripheral portion of said substrate supporting table, said stepped portion having a height larger than that of said protrusions, and

a groove communicated with a region inside of said stepped portion is formed in a top face of said stepped portion, said outlets being arranged in said groove.

Claim 21 (original): A processing system as set forth in claim 20, wherein said protrusions have a shape point-contacting said substrate.

Claims 22-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): A processing system comprising:

a processing vessel for housing therein a substrate;

a substrate supporting table, provided in said processing vessel, for supporting thereon said substrate;

gas supply means for supplying a process gas into said processing vessel; and

exhaust means for exhausting gas from said processing vessel,

wherein said substrate supporting table has a rectangular base, a plurality of protrusions of ceramic formed on said base in an irregular arrangement by thermal spraying, each of said protrusions having a top face consisting of a curved surface, and a heat-transfer fluid passage being open in a surface of said base as a plurality of outlets,

a stepped portion is provided on the surface of said base so as to extend along on outer peripheral portion of said substrate supporting table, said stepped portion having a height greater than that of said protrusions, and

a groove communicated with a region inside of said stepped portion is formed in a top face of stepped portion, said outlets being arranged in said groove.

Claim 26 (original): A processing system as set forth in claim 25, wherein said protrusions have a shape point-contacting said substrate.

Claim 27-29 (canceled)